(c) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b).

No formal export target had been set for 1994-95. However, trade and industry had been exhorted to achieve export growth of 25 per cent during 1994-95. Exports during April-February 1994-95 the latest period for which aggregate trade statistics are available, have registered an increase of 17.3 per cent in US Dollars terms over the corresponding period last year. As per provisional estimates, monthly export growth rates in US terms during April-February 1994-95, over the corresponding months of 1993-94 are as given below :

Months	%Increase
April	12.6
May	6.7
June	9.4
July	6.0
August	24.6
September	24.0
October	26.9
November	18.8
December	29.0
January	12.0
February	15 6

(c) Export promotion is a continuous process and steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and other relevant interests Government has taken a number of steps to make the environment policies and procedures more export-friendly. The measures include grant of Income Tax exemption on export profiles, access to cheaper export credit designated in convertible currency and assistance to Export Promotion Counncils/Commodity Boards for export market development.

Trade relations with Asian countries

*296. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to establish increased trade relations with other Asian countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Government is keen to establish and strengthen trade relations with other countries in the Asian region. Government has adopted a strategy to expand trade and economic relations with the Central Asian Republics by signing bilateral framework Agreements, setting up of Joint Commissions/Committees, etc. and ascertaining the possibility of sending goods into Central Asian Republics *via* Iran.

In order to strengthen and increase trade relations between seven South Asian Countries, the Agreement establishing the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) was signed on 11th April, 1993 at the 7th SAARC Summit held in Dhaka. Besides, India has also entered into a Border Trade Agreement with Myanmar to give a boost to the bilateral trade between the two countries. The Indo-Myanmar border trade has been formally launched of 12-4-1995.

Census of beedi workers in the country

*297. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Labour does not have upto date data on beedi workers as 1991 census figures are still waited.

(b) if so, the details of status of census of beedi workers; and

(c) wnether a separate census will be conducted by Labour Ministry on economic status of beedi workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Data pertaining to beedi workers as per 1991 census is under compilation by the Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner. As per the information available with the Ministry of Labour from the State Governments/Welfare Commissioners, the estimated number of beedi workers in the country is as follows:

State	No. of beedi workers (estimated)
1. Assam	8,000
2. Andhra Pradesh	6,25,000
3. Bihar	3,92,000
4. Gujarat	50,000
5. Karnataka	3,55,000
6. Kerala	1,36,000
7. Maharashtra	2,56,000
8. Madhya Pradesh	6,60,000
9. Orissa	1,52,000
10. Rajasthan	1,00,000
11. Tripura	5,000
12. Uttar Pradesh	4,50,000
13. West Bengal	4,50,000
14. Tamil Nadu	6,21,000
TOTAL :	42,60,000

(c) A Survey on the working and living conditions of workers (including home workers) employed in the Beedi Manufacturing Industry in twelve States of the country has been conducted by the Labour Bureau, Shimla, recently.

नई चीनी मिलों हेतु प्रस्ताव

*298. **श्री अनन्तराम जायसवाल :**
श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :

क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने नई चीनी मिलों के लिए लाइसेंस जारी कर दिए हैं, यदि हां, तो उत्तर भारत के किन-किन राज्यों में कितनी-कितनी नई चीनी मिलों के लिए किन-किन आधार पर लाइसेंस जारी किए गए हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार के उपरोक्त निर्णयों के अन्तर्गत सरकार को उत्तर भारत के राज्यों में नई चीनी मिलें स्थापित करने हेतु कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुआ है, यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) चीनी उद्योग को लाइसेंस मुक्त करने तथा नई चीनी मिलों के लिए लाइसेंस जारी करने के सरकारी निर्णय का वर्तमान कार्यरत चीनी मिलों और बंद पड़ी चीनी मिलों पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा ?

खाद्य मंत्री (श्री अजीत सिंह) :(क) जी हां। 8वीं पंच वर्षीय योजना के दौरान (31-1-95 तक) लाइसेंस नीति संबंधी उस समय लागू मार्गदर्शी सिद्धांतों के अनुसार नई चीनी फैक्ट्रियों की स्थापना के लिए देश के उत्तरी राज्यों में उद्योग मंत्रालय द्वारा 32 आशय पत्र जारी किए गए हैं। राज्यवार विवरण निम्नानुसार है :—

क्रम सं०	राज्य	जारी आशय पत्रों की संख्या	
1.	हरियाणा	4	
2.	उत्तर प्रदेश	25	एक आशय-पत्र दिल्ली उच्च-न्यायालय द्वारा बाद में निरस्त कर दिया गया था।
3.	मध्य प्रदेश	2	
4.	बिहार	1	
	कुल :	32	